

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
DISCRETIONARY POWER TO MINISTERS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the discretionary powers enjoyed and used by the Ministers in various Ministries, ministry-wise;
- (b) the instances in which such powers are used by the Ministers and senior functionaries of the Ministries, ministrywise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to put an end to all types of discretionary powers enjoyed by the Ministers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.
(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (e): The details of discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers in various Ministries/Departments are not centrally maintained. A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted by the Government on 6th January, 2011 to consider measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption. One of the terms of reference of the GoM was 'relinquishing discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers at the Centre'. In this context, all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India were requested to intimate the discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers at the Centre. On the basis of information received from various Ministries/Departments in that context, a statement indicating the discretionary powers of Ministries at the Centre is at Annexure-I. The GoM reviewed the information received from all Ministries/Departments as regards the discretionary powers enjoyed by the respective Ministries.

On the basis of the review, the Group of Ministers recommended that all Ministries/Departments may carry out an exercise for putting in place regulating parameters for exercise of discretionary powers and putting them in public domain so as to minimize arbitrariness in exercise of such powers.

The above recommendation of the GoM has been accepted by the Government and accordingly all central Ministries/Departments have been advised to put in place regulating parameters for exercise of discretionary powers, wherever such guidelines do not exist, and place them in public domain.